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IN THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF ARIZONA

In the Matter of:)	
)	Supreme Court No. R-12-0049
PETITION TO AMEND)	
RULES 9, 17 and 18)	Comment to Petition to Amend
RULES OF THE COMMISSION)	
ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT)	
_____)	

Pursuant to Rule 28(D), Rules of the Supreme Court, Judge Gerald A. Williams, Associate Presiding Justice of the Peace, Maricopa County, respectfully submits this Comment for the Court's consideration.

Reasons Proposed Rule Amendments Should Be Adopted

At the Maricopa County Justice Court Bench meeting held on May 14, 2014, a consensus was formed that we, as a bench, should submit a brief comment in support of this Rule Change Petition. No judge spoke in opposition to the proposed changes.

The Commission on Judicial Conduct should have the authority to return to the previous practice of issuing confidential informal admonitions. Doing so allows for more consistency with prior cases. In addition, these proposed rule changes are more consistent with traditional standards of progressive discipline

than the current “reprimand or nothing” approach. Perhaps more importantly, these proposed rule changes would increase the Commission’s flexibility to deal with complaints against judicial officers on a case-by-case basis. As this Court has noted on more than one occasion, “In considering the appropriate discipline to impose for violations of judicial standards of conduct, our goal is not to punish the individual judge, but to maintain the high standards of the judiciary and the proper administration of justice.” *In re Carpenter*, 199 Ariz. 246, 248, 17 P.3d 91, 93 (2001).

Prior to becoming a Justice of the Peace, I served as Disciplinary Counsel for the Commission on Judicial Conduct. The following data shows the number of admonitions and reprimands issued from 2000 to 2004. It is from a presentation that I made several years ago and helps establish the usefulness of admonitions as an appropriate tool, should they become available again.

Description	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Admonitions	1	5	10	17	9
Reprimands	12	11	20	18	5

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this _____ day of May, 2014.

Gerald A. Williams
Justice of the Peace, on behalf of
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C/O North Valley Justice Court
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Copy of the foregoing
Mailed this ____ day of May, 2014
to:

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